August 7, 1984

Dear Harold,

Much thanks for your "devil's advocacy" of 7/30/84 regarding my 5/17/84 Mexico City memo. My reason for conjecturing, and sending up some non-established premises, was precisely to get some knowlegdeable inputs such as you provided.

Let me make it clear that Tony Summers has seen the HSCA memo and believes that it is a crucial document and that a copy might somehow be surfaced. I cannot independently establish that what Summers believes to be true is true, but I decided to get some inputs. I thought that Summers had some persuasive stuff on an Oswald imposter, yes. His interviews with Contreras, Ascue, (I realize that Summers believes Duran's version and you believe she's CIA), the repression of tapes and pictures, etc. What about Carolyn Arnold's version? I'm not familiar with it and, as you point out, Summers excludes it? I'd like to know about it.

The source for the statement that the photo was preserved in Mexico City is Summers' assertion about the HSCA report (Hoch transcript is enclosed). I don't assume this is true, but I want to know what if/ You're characterization of Angleton's behavior makes sense to me: it does not make much sense that he would remove it himself.

Regarding your point that CIA could easily have destroyed or buried such a photo, I agree--so either: the HSCA report is wrong, or Summers characterization of it is wrong, or there is some reason why the photo was preserved (some value to it for CIA).

Last graf, p. 2 of my memo on Mexico City, I am in error: the Minsk picture was said by CIA to be ~~d~~ identified as Oswald only after the assassination. I still raise the question of whether Oswald's embassy visits would not prompt the CIA to try to ID him, and that they might have been able to do so, given that there must have been more on LHO than just a photo or two.

Of course, I don't believe in ~~a~~ any Castro plot, there is no data at all. I'm not sure as to the exact nature of Oswald's political beliefs; but, if he could associate with Ferrie, or de Mohrenschildt, why not an anti-Castroite? I'm simply asking ~~for~~ for speculation that might explain the alleged history of the putative photo.

No, no, of course LHO wasn't in Mexico to plot the assassination. If he was there, he was sent there to start building his image as a fall guy.

Your critique is helpful. I'd like to hear what your preferred scenario is for Mexico City. I know Summers', but I'd like to know yours.

I continue to make progress on the IT Toronto phase of MLK and will want to run some new stuff by you for your input, perhaps on a future visit to D.C. for Bud's Archive project.

Thanks for the stuff on CIA-FOIA, Mexico City. They are single-handedly rewriting FOIA and creating their own exemptions, de facto.

Best regards,

Phil